

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the specification, please delete the paragraph beginning and ending at page 1, line 1.

In the specification, please delete the paragraph beginning and ending at page 1, line 3.

In the specification, please insert the following paragraphs following the title beginning at page 1, line 9:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a national stage entry of international application number PCT/EP2003/009361, having international filing date August 23, 2003, which was not published in English, which claims priority to German patent application number DE10241801, filed September 6, 2002.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION --

In the specification, please substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph at page 1, lines 10-21:

-- The invention relates to a method for joining the functional parts of hydraulic or pneumatic working devices, in particular of operating rams such as props for underground mining, with a first part having an external wall section and a second part having an internal wall section, which parts are joined together with mutually overlapping wall sections are connected to each other in said overlapping sections. The invention also relates to a joining connection for the corresponding functional parts, which include a first part with an external wall section and a second part with an internal wall section, which parts can be joined together and connected to each other with mutually overlapping wall sections. --

In the specification, please insert the following paragraph beginning at page 1, line 22:

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --

In the specification, please substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph at page 1, line23 through page 2, line4:

-- In particular in underground mining a large number of hydraulically actuated roof props or shield support props are required, in order to hold open the underground spaces such as a longwall face or roadway as produced in mining. Furthermore hydraulic operating rams also come into use in the advancing movement of extraction equipment and similar. The shield support props or roof props can be configured as single operating rams or as telescopic multiple operating rams, while the hydraulic rams providing advancing movement are mostly configured as double-acting hydraulic operating rams, which can be actuated by the stroke force in the outward stroke and inward stroke directions. Here each operating ram includes at least one cavity in the interior of a cylinder, and also a piston with piston rod as an axially moving body, ~~moving body~~, each comprising or consisting of at least two parts, which must be connected together so as to be sealed against fluid leakage, and in the connected joint state must be able to withstand high hydraulic pressures of several hundred bar. --

In the specification, please insert the following paragraph beginning at page 2, line 26:

-- BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

In the specification, please substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph at page 3, lines 2-4:

-- These and other tasks are solved by the invention of a method as specified in Claim 4 and a joining connection as specified in Claim 6. --

In the specification, please substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph at page 9, lines 17-23:

-- Further advantages and embodiments of the method in accordance with the invention and the joining connection in accordance with the invention are provided by the ~~sub-claims and the~~ following description of various application possibilities for the joining connection in the hydraulic rams and shield support props for underground mining shown in the drawings. In the figures: --

In the specification, please insert the following paragraph beginning at page 9, line 24:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --

In the specification, please insert the following paragraph beginning at page 10, line 9:

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION --

In the specification, substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph at page 25, line 1:

-- ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE --